

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY
SECRETARY OF STATE

6/2/86

Bill:

Since you asked about
my ideas to stop leaks,
I thought you might be
interested in seeing the
enclosed draft statement
which I gave to my boss
for his consideration.



WHITENED DRAFT

DRAFT OF STATEMENT FROM
THE SECRETARY TO THE DEPARTMENT

Last week the Department dismissed an employee because he made an unauthorized disclosure of classified information to the news media.

Unauthorized leaks to the media have become a serious problem in the conduct of our foreign policy and must be eliminated. Diplomacy cannot be effective if it must be conducted in public. Leaks of classified information jeopardize our sources of information, damage trusting relationships with our allies, and provide valuable information to our adversaries. Those who leak classified information break the law and violate Department policy. As this recent action indicates, leakers will hereafter be dealt with severely.

There are many sources of leaks in Washington, and it is my impression that the State Department is not one of the worst. Nevertheless, we do not have a perfect record and even a single unauthorized leak is one too many.

Yet we must all recognize that too tight restrictions on dealing with the media can be counterproductive and damage the effectiveness of our foreign policy. The public has a right to know and an informed citizenry is necessary to the

effectiveness of our political system. A free press with multiple sources of information is the backbone of democracy. So we must not clamp down too hard on the flow of information from the Department to the media.

Accordingly, in order to strike a proper balance between controlling damaging leaks of classified information and clamping down too hard on the free flow of legitimate news, I have initiated today the following three simple procedures which I request that all our people follow:

1. No one should talk to the media except on matters within the purview of their own responsibility.
2. No one should talk to the media without first consulting with a colleague about the wisdom or propriety of doing so; and
3. Each department or bureau shall keep a media contact log, and any contact with the media shall be recorded promptly in the log.

*not enough!
Needs prohibition
against Classified
intel data at
minimum*

OK

OK

I have asked Mr. Spiers to issue detailed instructions to implement these three new practices.

I have great confidence in the integrity and the good judgment of State Department personnel. I know I can ~~continue~~ count on all of you to continue our traditional high standard of responsibility in dealing with the media in the future.